the station of posting; if so, the details of the scheme; and

(b) if so, whether such facility of HRR is not available to defence service personnel, unless the accommodation is directly leased to the department concerned; if so, the reasons for such disparity?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Defence civilian employees are not entitled for House Rent Reimbursement in case they arrange the accommodation for themselves at the station of posting. They are entitled to receive House Rent Allowance at the prescribed rates in case they are not provided with Government accommodation, as per general orders.

2. The Armed Forces officers who cannot be provided suitable accommodation can be permitted to hire houses or live in their own houses and in such cases they are allowed house rent reimbursement subject to the prescribed rent ceilling and other provisions contained in the departmental instructions. The Junior Commissioned Officers and other ranks can claim Compensation in Leiu of Quarters (CILQ) within the authorised married establishment if they have not been provided with Government owned or hired accommodation.

3. On the recommendations of Fifth Pay Commission, orders have also been issued for payment of house rent allowance to the Armed Forces personnel when accommodation under the existing arrangements cannot be provided and subject to certain other conditions. The house rent allowance admissible to them is on the scale as for civilian employees.

Dues to IAF from Ex-Prime Ministers

3073. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to newsitem captioned "Three ex-Prime Ministers owe Rs. 14 crores for using IAF planes" appearing in the Indian Express dated 12th June, 1998;

(b) the names of ex-Prime Ministers and the amount due for each;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to recover these amounts;

(d) whether Government charges any interest for late payment;

(e) if so, the rate charged; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Rs. 13.63 crores is outstanding against the former Prime Ministers as per details given below:—

	Rs.
Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi	1,86,17,280/-
Shri V.P. Singh	2,25,679/-
Shri Chandra Sekhar	5,91,31,476/-
Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao	5,52,40,647/-
Shri H.D. Deve Gowda	26,48,164/-
Shri I.K. Gujral	3,95,986/-

(c) The recoveries of the dues are being pursued with the Prime Minister's Office.

(d) to (f) There is no system of charging interest on the outstanding payments from the user agencies.

Firing By Pak Troops

3074. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times Pakistani troops fired in the Jammu and Kashmir border during this year (month-wise);

(b) the number of innocent people in the border villages killed thereby;

(c) the steps being taken to check firing from across the border; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Details of Pak firing on the border in

J&K during the current year are given below:—

Month	*No. of firing incidents*	*No. of Civilians Killed*
January	219	—
February	194	—
March	196	—
April	203	—
May	284	1
June	321	4

Appropriate response is given by our troops to Pakistani firings, taking due care that the situation remains localised and at the same time it proves punitive and effective in nature.

Weekly telephonic conversations between Directors General of Military Operations of the two countries and local level flag meetings are utilised to convey our concern at such incidents. These channels have been effective in keeping tensions under check along the border.

Private Industry in DRDO Laboratories

3075. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to throw open to private industry certain laboratories of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO);

(b) if so, the broad areas of research and development in which the private sector would be allowed to operate;

(c) the specific measures worked out to safeguard the sensitive research work of the DRDO; and

(d) if so, on what coditions any foreign private research institutions/industry would be permitted in the DRDO research labs?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The areas of research and development in which the partnership of private sector would be further enhanced are life sciences, water purification, materials including composites, electronics, advanced computing, robotics and artificial intelligence.

(c) and (d) Adequate measures will be taken to ensure that sensitive and classified information about research and development programmes of DRDO is not disclosed.

F-404 Engines for LCA

3076. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision has been taken by the US-based GE Aircraft Engines Company regarding likely embargo on supply of F-404 engines for our Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) in the wake of US sanctions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the alternative sources being tapped for supply of the substitute engines; and

(c) the extent to which the LCA project is likely to be further delayed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The recently imposed sanctions have resulted US based GE Company to withdraw product support for the earlier supplied F-404 engines for the indigenously developed LCA. The F-404 engines will be used only for the initial two LCAs (TD-1) and (TD-2). Product support now exists based on our experience. Indigenously developed 'Kaveri' engines will be used for the subsequent LCAs prototypes (PV1 to PV5).

(c) The LCA programme will not be affected by the sanctions, as the small impact on its schedule is being overcome by concertrated effort by a national team.